AL-VI-B-269

Vale Summit Survey District
Vale Summit
Private

mid-19th century
early 20th century

The Vale Summit Survey District is located on Maryland Route 55 east of maryland Route 36, south of Frostburg. Maryland Route 55 runs east to west through the survey district. The architecture of Vale Summit is characterized by vernacular-styled frame dwellings. Many buildings in the survey district are 2 story, 3 bay by 1 bay dwellings based on the ell plan.

Vale Summit is a small town in the Georges Creek coal region of Allegany county. The town's original name, Pompey Smash, refers to the fact that the town was built on the site of the crash of a coal wagon driven by a black slave named Pompey. Unlike the many company towns of the Maryland mining region, Vale Summit was laid out in 1851 by miners "...who bought the lots and built the town."

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

# 1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Vale Summit Survey District

# 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Md.Rt. 55 east of Md. Rt. 36

CITY, TOWN
Vale Summit

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
6th

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY
Allegany County

# 3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE | |
|----------|-----------|--------|-------------|---|
| X DISTRICT | __PUBLIC | X OCCUPIED | __AGRICULTURE | __MUSEUM |
| __BUILDING(S) | X PRIVATE | __UNOCCUPIED | __COMMERCIAL | __PARK |
| __STRUCTURE | __BOTH | __WORK IN PROGRESS | __EDUCATIONAL | X PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| __SITE | **PUBLIC ACQUISITION** | **ACCESSIBLE** | __ENTERTAINMENT | __RELIGIOUS |
| __OBJECT | __IN PROCESS | X YES: RESTRICTED | __GOVERNMENT | __SCIENTIFIC |
| | __BEING CONSIDERED | __YES: UNRESTRICTED | __INDUSTRIAL | __TRANSPORTATION |
| | | __NO | __MILITARY | __OTHER |

# 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Multiple ownership

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

___ VICINITY OF

STATE , zip code

# 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Liber #:
Folio #:

COURTHOUSE.
REGISTRY OF DEEDS,ETC. Allegany County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN
Cumberland

STATE
Maryland 21502

# 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
MHT Inventory, AL-VI-B-055,056, and 059

DATE

___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---|---|---|---|
| __EXCELLENT | __DETERIORATED | X̶UNALTERED | X̶ORIGINAL SITE |
| __GOOD | __RUINS | X̶ALTERED | __MOVED  DATE_____ |
| X̶FAIR | __UNEXPOSED | | |

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Vale Summit Survey District is located on Maryland Route
55 east of Maryland Route 36, south of Frostburg, Maryland.
Maryland Route 55 runs east to west through the survey district.
The abandoned Georges Creek and Cumberland Railroad bed is north
of the town.  The terrain of the survey district is hilly.

The architecture of Vale Summit is characterized by vernacular-
styled frame dwellings.  Many buildings in the survey district
are 2 story, 3 bay by 1 bay dwellings based on the ell plan.

They rest on stone foundations and have gabled roofs.  An
example, #7 on the attached map, has shingle-covered gable ends
and central gable with decorative jig-sawn trim work.  Several
buildings in the survey district are typical saltbox houses.
The 1½ and 2 story frame buildings are 3 bays wide and one bay
deep.  They rest on stone foundations and have gabled roofs.  Shed-
roof additions abutting their rear elevations give these buildings
the saltbox shape found throughout the mining region.  An example
is the Cain Saltbox House, AL-VI-B-055, map #38. A store building
in Vale Summit is a 1½ story frame building with a typical 3 bay
store front facade.  Additions to the building have obscured much
of the original structure, see #14 on the attached map.  The Booth
Frame House, AL-VI-B-055, map #25, is a saltbox house with a gable
roofed wing.  The gable roofed wing has dentilated eaves.  The
saltbox section of the building housed a saloon at one time.

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| __PREHISTORIC | __ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | __COMMUNITY PLANNING | __LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | __RELIGION |
| __1400-1499 | __ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | __CONSERVATION | __LAW | __SCIENCE |
| __1500-1599 | __AGRICULTURE | __ECONOMICS | __LITERATURE | __SCULPTURE |
| __1600-1699 | X_ARCHITECTURE | __EDUCATION | __MILITARY | __SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| __1700-1799 | __ART | __ENGINEERING | __MUSIC | __THEATER |
| X_1800-1899 | __COMMERCE | __EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | __PHILOSOPHY | __TRANSPORTATION |
| __1900- | __COMMUNICATIONS | X_INDUSTRY | __POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | __OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | __INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES                                    BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Vale Summit is a small town is the Georges Creek coal region of Allegany County. The town's original name, Pompey Smash, refers to the fact that the town was built on the site of the crash of a coal wagon driven by a black slave named Pompey. Unlike the many company towns of the Maryland mining region, Vale Summit was laid out in 1851 by miners "... who bought the lots and built the town." [1]

In 1880 Thomas Scharf described Pompey Smash as "... the home of several hundred miners of Welsh, Scotch and Irish extraction...", who were employed at the Grant Coal and Iron Company and the Consolidation Coal Company's mines in the area.[2] In 1880 the town's population was 535 people.[3] In 1887 the town supported 3 saloons and 5 general merchandise and grocery stores. The town was a station on the Georges Creek and Cumberland Railroad. [4]

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

# **9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Harvey, Katherine, <u>The Best-Dressed Miners, Life and Labor in</u>
<u>the Maryland Mining Region, 1835-1910</u>,   Ithica: Cornell University
Press, 1969.
"The Maryland Directory and State Gazeteer, "  Baltimore: Baltimore
Publishing Company, 1887.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# **10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | COUNTY |
|-------|--------|
| STATE | COUNTY |

# **11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE
David A. Dorsey, Historic Sites Surveyor

| ORGANIZATION | DATE |
|--------------|------|
| Maryland Historical Trust/Bureau of Mines | May 1982 |

| STREET & NUMBER | TELEPHONE |
|-----------------|-----------|
| 21 State Circle, Shaw House | (301) 269-2438 |

| CITY OR TOWN | STATE |
|--------------|-------|
| Annapolis | Maryland 21401 |

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created
by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the
Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA,
1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information
and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringe-
ment of individual property rights.

RETURN TO:   Maryland Historical Trust
             The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
             Annapolis, Maryland 21401
             (301) 267-1438

AL-VI-B-269

Vale Summit Survey District
(#9 continuation Bibliography )

Scharf, Thomas, <u>History of Western Maryland Vol.II</u>, Philadelphis:
Louis H. Everts, 1882.
Stegmaier, Harry, etal, <u>Allegany County-A History</u>, Parsons: McClair
Printing Company, 1976
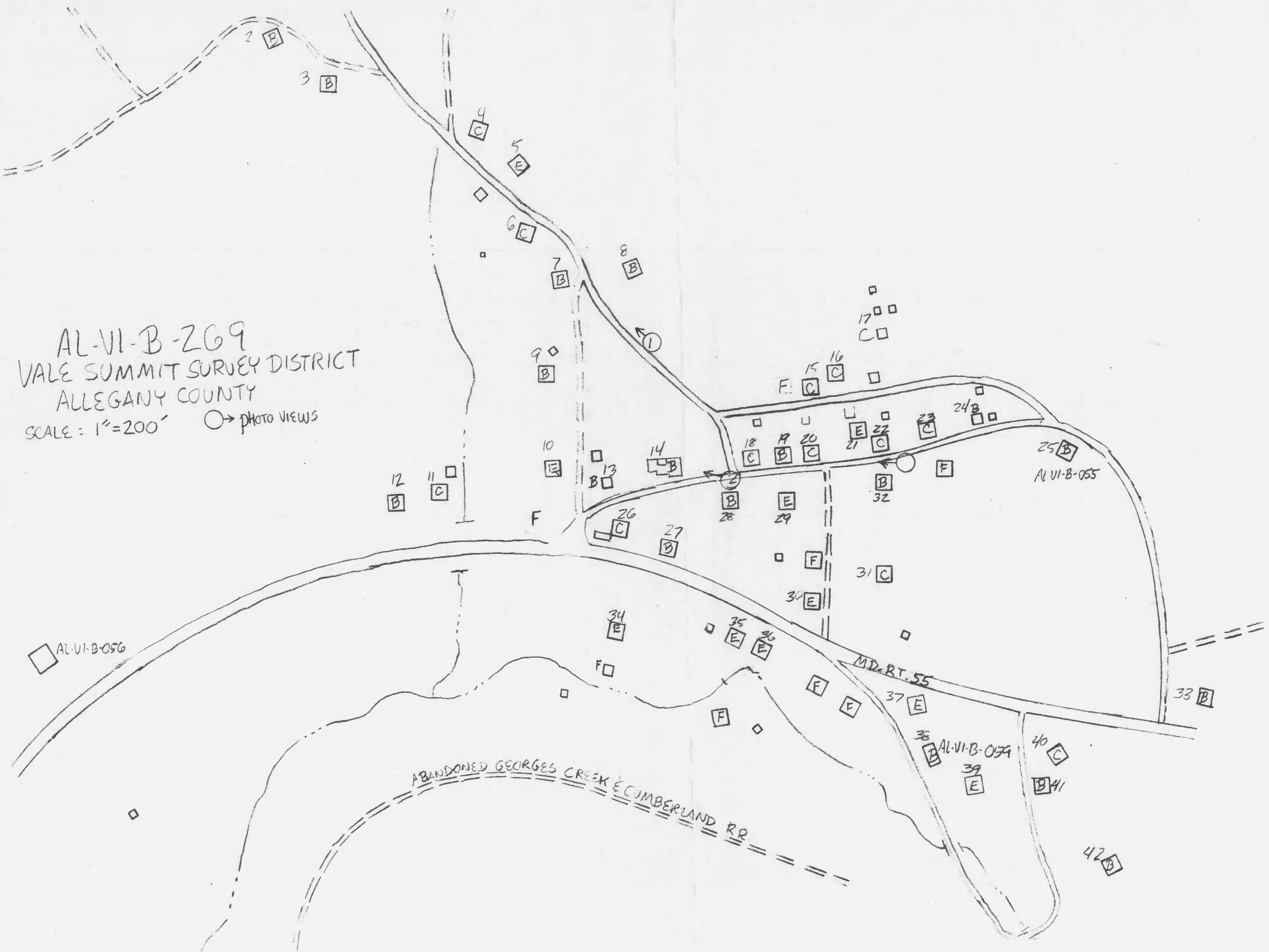
Footnotes

1
   Harry Stegmaier etal, <u>Allegany County-A History</u>, Parsons:  McClain
Printing Company, 1976, p. 140.

2
   Thomas Scharf, <u>History of Western Maryland Vol. II</u>, Philadelphia:
Louis H. Everts, 1882, p. 1495.

3
   Katherine Harvey, <u>The Best-Dressed Miners, Life and Labor in the Maryland
Coal Region, 1835-1910</u>, Ithica:  Cornell University Press, 1969, p. 84

4
   "The Maryland Directory and State Gazetteer", Baltimore:  Baltimore
Publishing Company, 1887, p. 33.

AL-VI-B-269
VALE SUMMIT SURVEY DISTRICT
ALLEGANY COUNTY
SCALE: 1"=200'    ◯→ PHOTO VIEWS

ABANDONED GEORGES CREEK & CUMBERLAND R.R.

MD. RT. 55

AL-VI-B-056
AL-VI-B-055
AL-VI-B-059

Lonaconing, MD;WV
USGS 7.5 Minute Series
Scale 1:24,000
1950; photorevised 1974

AL-VI-B-269
Vale Summit Survey District
MD Rt. 55 east of MD Rt. 36

AL-VI-B-269
Vale Summit Survey District
Allegany Co., MD
Dave Dorsey, 2/82
photo #1, looking SE

AL-VI-B-269
Vale Summit Survey District
Allegany Co., MD
Dave Dorsey, 2/82
photo #2, looking E